



NEWSLETTER

Volume XVI, Number 3

Why You Should Add Volunteering to Your Job Search Mix

If you've been looking for a job, you already know it's competitive. So, how do you set yourself apart? If you've been out of the work force, what recent experience can you put on your resume? How do you network, when you don't know anyone professionally?

Consider volunteering. Volunteers are in demand! You will easily find opportunities to choose from once you start searching. Volunteers are vital to many public and non-profit organizations such as museums, hospitals, colleges, and civic organizations. Whether it's the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City or the local YMCA; volunteer opportunities await.

Volunteering allows you to demonstrate your skills.

Think of the volunteer experience as a virtual 3-D resume, especially to the organization you are volunteering with. When they need to fill a vacancy, it's likely your resume will move to the top of the pile. If you've been laid off, an employer will learn that from your resume. And, they assume you are looking for a job, but will wonder, 'What else are you doing with your time?' Being able to tell an employer in an interview that you are keeping updated in your skills or learning a new one, will set you apart from other candidates.

Volunteering opens up new opportunities to network.

There is no better way to become a "good prospect" than for others to eyewitness how you use your skills. There may be a fellow volunteer who can make a firsthand recommendation about your abilities to a friend hiring in your job search area. Working on a common goal with others allows for easy camaraderie and the opportunity to form relationships that expand your networking reach.

Volunteering gets you "out there". Sitting in front of a computer, sending out a seemingly endless stream of cover letters while often receiving no response, can become isolating and discouraging. Volunteering gets you out of the house and purposely doing something that will provide you with the necessary confidence required to successfully land a job. Confidence and motivation need accomplishments and productive experiences to grow and remain strong.

(Continued on Page 2, Right Column)

Long Awaited Alimony Reform Bill is Nearly Here

Over the last few years, alimony reform has been a hotly contested issue in Trenton. At one point at least five different bills were being considered. Well, the wait is nearly over. As of this article, the Alimony Reform Bill awaits our governor's signature to become amended statute N.J.S.A 2A:34-23.

The first notable change is the replacement of the word "permanent" with the phrase "open durational alimony". This change is intended to clarify that the alimony will end at some point, clarifying that it will not go on forever as had been the misinterpretation with "permanent".

The next, notable change is with regard to the standard of living. The bill amends this language to state, "the standard of living established in the marriage or civil union and the likelihood that each party can maintain a reasonably comparable standard of living, with neither party having a greater entitlement to that standard of living than the other." This new language looks to further balance fairness.

Next, limits have been placed on the length of alimony that did not previously exist. Specifically, "[f]or any marriage or civil union less than 20 years in duration, the total duration of alimony shall not, except in exceptional circumstances, exceed the length of the marriage or civil union. Determination of the length and amount of alimony shall be made by the court pursuant to consideration of all the statutory factors. . . . In addition to those factors, the court shall also consider the practical impact of the parties' need for separate residences and the attendant increase in living expenses on the ability of both parties to maintain a standard of living reasonably comparable to the standard of living established in the marriage or civil union, to which both parties are entitled, with neither party having a greater entitlement there to."

(Continued on Page 2, Left Column)

REMINDER
FREE LEGAL CLINICS
1st, 2nd, & 3rd WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
CALL 973-328-5025, OR EMAIL
womenscenter@ccm.edu

(Continued from Page 1, Right Column)

The new language does carve out exceptions citing, “Exceptional circumstances which may require an adjustment to the duration of alimony include the ages of the parties, the degree and duration of the dependency, a chronic illness or unusual health circumstance, if one has given up a career or a career opportunity or otherwise supported the career of the other, if one has received a disproportionate share of the marital estate, the party’s ability to become self-supporting, including responsibility as primary caretaker of a child, tax considerations.”

Lastly, retirement as a factor to modify alimony has been more specifically delineated. Stating, “Alimony may be modified or terminated upon the prospective or actual retirement of the obligor. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that alimony shall terminate upon the obligor spouse or partner attaining full retirement age, except that any arrearages that have accrued prior to the termination date shall not be vacated or annulled. The court may set a different alimony termination date for good cause shown based upon specific written finding of fact and conclusions of law.”

While the above provides a brief overview of the eleven (11) page bill, we will wait to see, if signed, how the potential terms affect future divorce matters.

Catherine F. Riordan is a certified matrimonial law attorney and a partner at Veres & Riordan located in Denville, NJ
CFR@vrfamilylaw.com



Thank you to Weichert Realtors

The Women’s Center, on behalf of our clients, would like to thank the employees of Weichert Real Estate School and Weichert Realtors of Morris Plains for generously donating school supplies again this year. A special thank you to Audrey Verona for coordinating this effort. Your generosity is appreciated and we are fortunate to have you as our community partner.

WC Newsletter
 Published quarterly by
 The Women’s Center at CCM
 SCC 115, Randolph, NJ 07869

973-328-5025
womenscenter@ccm.edu
www.ccm.edu/womenscenter

Mission Statement:
To serve the varied needs of women in their quest for economic self-sufficiency.

Staff

Director	Melissa Elias
Career Counselor	Eileen Fee
Career Counselor	Maureen Haggerty
Job Placement	Michele Coneys
Program Administrator	Patricia Spitnale

The Women’s Center at CCM is a nonprofit organization serving displaced homemakers, single mothers, and other women. It is sponsored by the **County College of Morris**. The program is funded by the **NJ Division on Women** and the **United Way of Northern New Jersey**. The legal education services are funded by a grant from the **IOLTA Fund of the NJ Bar Foundation** and the **Morris County Bar Foundation**.

(Continued from Page 1, Left Column)

Think of Volunteering as an Investment. The time spent reaps resume, skills and network building rewards. Depending on the organization and your schedule, you can volunteer one day a week for several hours, or one day a month for several hours.

So, how do you get started? Consider your interests, skills, time availability, and location. VolunteerMatch.org is a good website to begin with. You can create an account and be matched with organizations seeking your talents and abilities.

The volunteer experience is fun, rewarding and boosts your marketability and might even lead you on a whole new career path.

By Tricia Spitnale, Program Administrator, The Women’s Center at CCM

Career Corner***What is career counseling?***

Career counseling is an exploration of your interests, values, skills and personality type, with the assistance of a counselor who will help you with career change, personal career development, and other career-related issues.

Do career counselors tell you what you should be?

No, but the counselor accompanies you and helps guide you on your journey as you explore educational and career options.

Why can career counseling be important to an individual?

At times in life, we are sometimes faced with positive happenings and also challenges, complex decision making, and difficult losses that can create changes in our daily living, often ushering us into a period of transition. During these times, it is helpful to assess where we are now, where we hope to go, and how we can best reach our goals. A career counselor can help put an individual's qualifications, experiences, strengths, and weaknesses into perspective. He or she can also help you sort through practical issues such as salary, location, job market, and educational options.

What kind of work is required in the career counseling process?

Hard work! Whether you need a new resume, some short-term career advice, or a totally new career, a career counselor can help develop strategies for an effective vocational plan for you. Your journey may include career assessment, effective job-search techniques, resume development, branding, salary negotiation, interview coaching, social media, networking, self-marketing, and even entrepreneurial ventures. When working through the process, it is important to meet regularly with your counselor.

What resources may be helpful?

- *What Color Is Your Parachute* by Richard Bolles. See the chapter "Self-Inventory (The Flower Exercise)."
- *If You Don't Know Where You're Going, You'll Probably End Up Somewhere Else* by David P. Campbell.
- CAREEREALISM website.
- LinkedIn.

What is the payoff, career-wise, for your investment of time and effort?

This process will lead you to a position that you will find challenging, profitable and enjoyable. You may realize that your career goal will require you to continue your education by seeking appropriate training, certification, or possibly a degree. Career change requires hard work; it is a think-and-do process, but well worth your time and effort.

Upcoming Job Club Topics

- 9/12 Taking Your Job Search by Storm in 2014 with Career Success Speaker & Author, Abby Kohut
- 9/26 Benefits of Volunteering to your Job Search with Women's Center Programs Administrator, Tricia Spitnale
- 10/3 Letting Go of Things that Don't Matter with Professional Organizer, Katherine Trezise
- 10/17 Preparing for Interview Questions with HR Professional, Barbara Newman
- 11/7 Personal Years and How to Use Them to Your Advantage with Intuitive Coach, Deb Wilbur
- 11/21 How to Harness the Internet within the Job Search with Career & Job Search Coach, Marc DeBoer
- 12/1 Job Hunting on the Internet with CCM Librarian, Lynee Richel

Job Club meets from 10-12 and is a great way to network and meet others. To get the latest job club information, please e-mail Michele Coneys at mconeys@ccm.edu, and she will add you to her notification list. All of this free help is available by calling 973-328-5025, or emailing us at womenscenter@ccm.edu and reserving your place.

**\$1,500 Scholarship Award Available**

Soroptimist International is accepting applications from women who are the primary financial support for themselves and/or family and wish to enhance their education. Recipients may use the award for educational/vocational/skills training programs and costs such as books, transportation or childcare associated with their efforts. Applications are available at the Women's Center or at:

www.soroptimist.org/awards/live-your-dream-awards.html

Deadline is: November 15, 2014



Continued from page 3, left column

The closing line from Mary Oliver's poem, "The Summer Day," leaves each of us with an important question:

*Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

By Maureen Haggerty, Career Counselor at The Women's Center at CCM

Women's Center at CCM Summer 2014 Calendar of Activities

September

3, 5, 10, 12 – Windows 7 & Intro to Computers Class
 3, 10, 17 – Legal Clinics
 5, 12, 26 – Job Club
 9, 16, 23 – Empowerment
 15, 19, 22, 26 – Word 1 Class
 17, 19, 24, 25 – PowerPoint Class
 29 – Word 2 Class
Mon – Thurs – Computer Lab
Mon – Thurs – Career Counseling appointments

October

1, 7, 14, 21, 29 – Empowerment
 1, 8, 15 – Legal Clinic
 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Family Law Workshop Series
 3, 6, 10 – Word 2 Class
 3, 17 – Job Club
 15 – CCM Job Fair
 15, 17, 22, 24 – Excel 1 Class
 17, 19, 24, 26 – PowerPoint Class
 29, 31 – Excel 2 Class
Mon – Thurs – Computer Lab
Mon – Thurs – Career Counseling appointments

November

4, 11, 18, 25 – Empowerment
 5, 7 – Excel 2 Class
 5, 12, 19 – Legal Clinic
 6, 13 – Family Law Workshop Series
 7, 21 – Job Club
 12, 14, 19, 21 – Access Class
Mon - Thurs – Computer Lab
Mon - Thurs – Career Counseling appointments

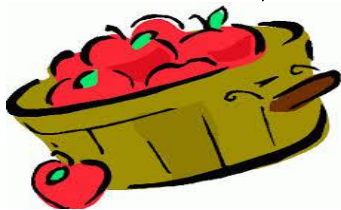
December

3, 5, 10, 12 – QuickBooks Class
 3, 10, 17 – Legal Clinic
 12 – Job Club
Mon - Thurs – Computer Lab
Mon - Thurs – Career Counseling appointments

The Women's Center will be closed from December 24th through January 2, 2015 and will re-open on Monday, January 5th, 2015.

Please consider the Women's Center at CCM when making an end of year financial donation. The generosity of individual donations enhances our ability to design quality programming for our clients.

“...September days are here,



With summer's best of weather,
 And autumn's best of cheer.”
 ~Helen Hunt Jackson



The Women's Center at CCM
County College of Morris
SCC 115
Randolph, NJ 07869

September 2014